

A<sup>1</sup>  
adding ozone to the cellulosic pulp in a contacting device to create a partial pressure [Pp] of O<sub>3</sub> greater than 1.4 psi and reacting the ozone with the pulp in said contacting device under high shear mixing conditions; and

maintaining the ozone in contact with the pulp in the contacting device under the high shear mixing conditions for a time ranging from 0.01 to 1 second thereby consuming 87-99% of the ozone.

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Please enter the following new claim

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A<sup>2</sup>  
25. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein ozone is added directly to said contacting device.

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